

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated April 20, 2006, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 2, 6-16, 18, 19, 23-29, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,342,890 to Shetter ("Shetter") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,613,103 to Nobutani et al. ("Nobutani") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,814,756 to Chauvel ("Chauvel"); claims 31-35 are allowed; and claims 3-5, 17, 20-22, and 30 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 18 to include the subject matter of claims 3 and 20, respectively. Applicant has accordingly canceled claims 3 and 20. As claims 3 and 20 are allowable if rewritten in independent form, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 18 are now therefore allowable. Applicant has canceled claims 4 and 21 and has amended the dependency of claims 5 and 22 to depend upon claims 2 and 19, respectively. Claims 2 and 5-17 are dependent from claim 1 and claims 19 and 22-30 are dependent from claim 18, and each are therefore allowable as well. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 2, 5-19, and 22-30 is respectfully requested.

Applicant has added claims 37 and 38, which respectively include the subject matter of claims 17 and 30 in independent form. As claims 17 and 30 are identified by the Examiner as allowable if rewritten in independent form, Applicant submits that new claims 37 and 38 are allowable.

Claim 36 was rejected by the Examiner by the same rationale as claim 1. Applicant has amended claim 36 similarly to claim 1 to include the feature of "wherein each zone of said plurality of zones has the same dimensions and number of pixels as the other zones." Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment introduces no new matter and that claim 36 is allowable for the same reason as claim 1 as discussed above. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 36 is respectfully requested.

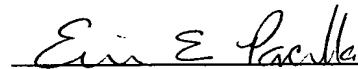
Thus, claims 1, 2, 5-19, and 22-38 are pending in the present application. For all the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims patentably define

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37 CFR § 1.116**

over the cited art. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for claims 1, 2, 5-19, and 22-38 is respectfully requested. In the event, however, that the Examiner believes that the application is not allowable for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned agent to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

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Erin E. Pacella
Registration No. 56,239

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439